

Thoma
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Birdlife of Itasca State Park

Official Park Checklist



Published by the Minnesota Department
of Natural Resources, Division of Parks
and Recreation, to commemorate the 50th
year of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

List of Symbols and Abbreviations

Seasonal Occurrence

- A solid line indicates a species is present and is common to abundant. During summer months, a solid line indicates nesting.
- A dashed line indicates a species is present but in limited numbers. This may or may not indicate nesting. (Refer to column marked "Breeding.")
- ~~~~~ A wavy line indicates a species is here irregularly, or rarely. This may or may not indicate nesting.

Habitat

- | | |
|---|--|
| A = Aquatic areas | G = Grasslands |
| 1 = Open lakes and streams | 1 = Wet sedge meadows |
| 2 = Marshes, cattails and marsh borders | 2 = Grassy meadows & dry uplands |
| B = Beaches, usually sandy | M = Mudflats |
| C = Cliffs and banks | O = Aerial (usually seen in flight overhead) |
| F = Forests | S = Shrubby areas |
| 1 = Deciduous: Maple-basswood, Oak-elm upland, bottomland | 1 = Wet willow growth and brushy creek banks |
| 2 = Conifer: Pine, Spruce-Fir | 2 = Brushy hillsides |
| 3 = Forest Edge | 3 = Woodsy borders |
| 4 = Tamarack/Black Spruce Bog | 4 = Forest undergrowth |
| | X = Farmsteads & Building Sites |

Breeding Status

- N = Not known to nest in Itasca State Park
- R = Rarely nests in area (usually a rare species)
- U = Nests uncommonly (usually either a species at the edge of its normal range, or a species with few nesting territories in the park)
- C = Commonly nests in Itasca State Park

PREPARED BY:

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 Lewis W. Oring, Professor, University of North Dakota and Itasca Biology Sessions
 Bryce Anderson, Regional Park Naturalist, MN-DNR, Bemidji.



Birdlife of Itasca State Park

The diversity of the birdlife in Itasca State Park can be, to a large extent, attributed to its location and its early preservation as a state park. The entire park area of some 32,000 acres, according to Marschner's "*The Original Vegetation of Minnesota*," lies within four vegetation zones: the white red pine, the Jack Pine barrens, the aspen-birch, and the conifer bogs and swamps. Within this "Pineries" classification, many tree species such as oaks, spruce, and fir occur as associated species. It was this diverse landscape which forms the Lake Itasca watershed or drainage basin which was preserved as a state park in 1891.

Surprisingly the earliest recorded visit by an ornithologist to Itasca State Park resulted in the naming of a geological feature (an esker) but apparently no record of any ornithological observations. This is best described in the words of Gustav Swanson who, in his 1943 publication "*Summer Birds of Itasca Park*," wrote, "It is ironic that J. V. Brower, who more than all others worked to secure the establishment of the Park, is recognized only by 'Brower Ridge,' an unprepossessing hogback followed by the Lind Saddle Trail for a distance and by a little island in DeSoto Lake. The name 'Brower Ridge' was suggested by Dr. Elliott Coues, the celebrated ornithologist turned historian, who in 1894 visited the Park in his studies of the Zebulon M. Pike explorations."

The earliest Itasca birdlife records were the result of the pioneer ornithological field work by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts who visited Itasca State Park during the early 1900's. Some of these early records were used in his classic *"The Birds of Minnesota,"* published in 1932.

In the 1930's, a biology session was added to the program of the University of Minnesota's Forestry Station in Itasca State Park. Since that time, the Forestry and Biological Station has offered courses in field ornithology annually during the early summer months. The earliest checklist of birds of Itasca State Park was authored by Gustav Swanson, an early professor of ornithology, based on bird observations during the summer months from 1929 to 1943. In 1955, Donald K. Lewis produced an updated checklist, based on observations and records of the University's field ornithology program. Ten years later, three former field ornithology professors — Joseph J. Hickey, John T. Emlen, Jr., and S. Charles Kendeigh — published a paper on the nesting birdlife of Itasca State Park. This was followed in 1977 by the "Annotated Checklist" authored by David F. Parmelee, at that time the Director of Biology Sessions at the University station. (This last publication is probably the only paper on Itasca birdlife authored entirely in the Antarctic). All four of the previous bird checklist publications are listed on page 28 of this leaflet.

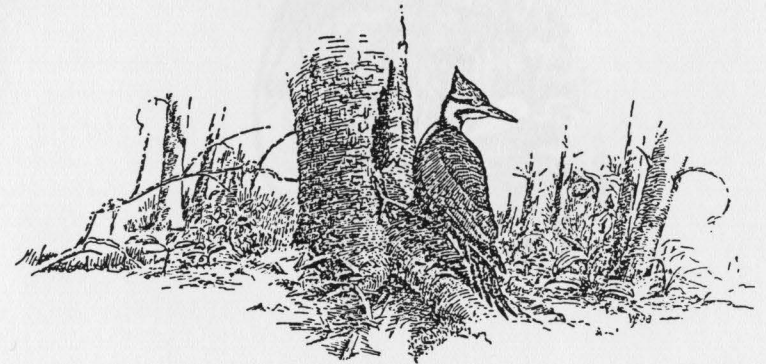
This issue of the "Itasca State Park Checklist" attempts to provide additional data, especially with regard to the yearly occurrence of each species. It also represents an attempt to encourage the birders who visit Itasca State Park to provide additional information and documentation regarding Itasca's birdlife. This leaflet is patterned after the highly successful *"Birds of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Region,"* originally published in 1951 by the Bell Museum of Natural History. The authors of the 1951 edition were Anne Winton Dodge, Helen Ford Fullerton, Walter J. Breckenridge and Dwain W. Warner. The first edition of the Twin Cities checklist was revised and updated in 1983 by Bill Hilton, Jr. and Robert Askins.

There are many problems inherent in trying to predict what the various species of birds will do each year regarding migration, nesting, and even habitat preference. The following illustrates some of these common "checklist problems" as they relate to Itasca State Park. During some years, the Common Loon has been documented as arriving in northern Minnesota as early as March 21, 25 and 28. However, the earliest date for Itasca State Park would be the second week of April. The arrival of many

species is dependent upon open water which is an extremely variable factor in this part of Minnesota. Some species, such as the Common Goldeneye nest just north of Itasca State Park in Rice Lake, but have not been recorded as nesting in the park. Bald Eagles, although in this region during some winters, have not been recorded in Itasca State Park from early December to mid-February. Breeding Status of some species often-times can be a very subjective matter; for example, the Turkey Vulture could be either "R" or "U" in Itasca State Park. The American Woodcock, today a common nesting species, was not even on the first bird checklist (1943), was a "probably non-existent here" in the 1955 list and was not mentioned in the 1965 publication of nesting birds of Itasca State Park. The evening grosbeak was a "not recorded as nesting here" in 1965, but by 1977 Dr. Parmelee noted that it "can be found commonly throughout the year, although it may be inconspicuous during nesting; it builds its nest near the top of the tallest pines, at times overlooking park roads and trails."

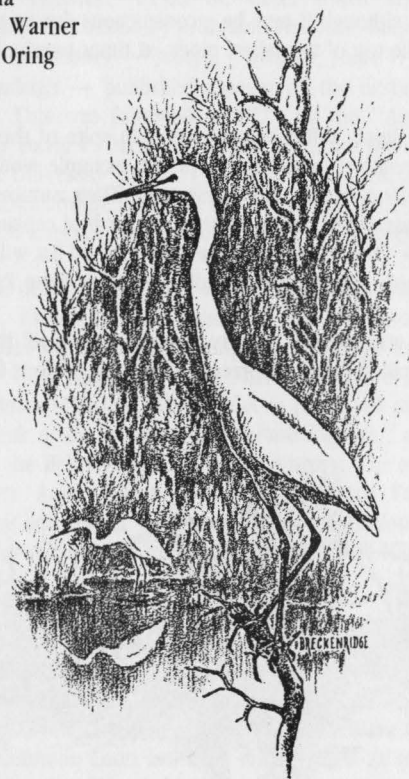
Many species are simply difficult to observe, in spite of the fact that they are present in relatively good numbers. An example would be the Saw-whet Owl — seldom heard, much less seen. Their numbers appear to dramatically increase when mist nets are used for bird census work at night. In spite of these limitations, we hope that this bird list will increase the interest and records regarding the birdlife of Itasca State Park.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have provided information, advice, corrections and suggestions for our at-



tempt to provide an accurate checklist for the birds of Itasca State Park. Special acknowledgment goes to three of Minnesota's outstanding birders, Kim Eckert, Robert Janssen and Bruce Fall for their work on the original manuscript. We would also like to thank the members of the Park Rapids Birdwatchers Club — Joseph K. Brown, Jean Leckner, Ruth J. Peterson, Rob Naplin and Bobbie Thomas — for their suggestions. Many of the winter occurrence records were provided by Clara Herhusky, a year around resident of Itasca State Park for many years. Finally, our thanks to all past field ornithology students, their professors and the park visitors interested in birding — it is their concern and interest that makes this project worthwhile.

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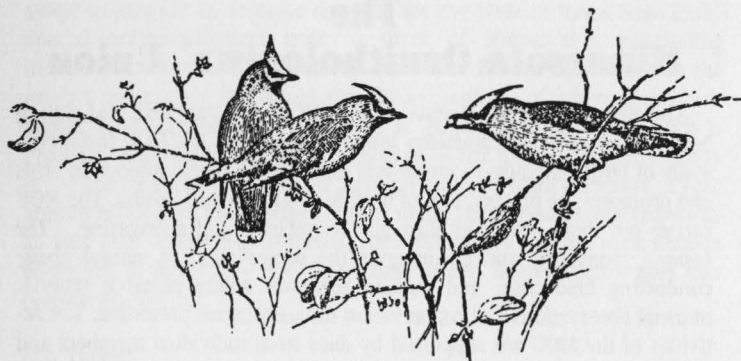


The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU) is a statewide bird club of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. The MOU fosters the study of birds, attempts to create and increase the public interest in birds and promotes the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat. The MOU carries out these objectives through the publishing of a magazine, "*The Loon*;" sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. The activities of the MOU are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. For membership information, please write to:

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union
J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History
10 Church St. S.E.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104





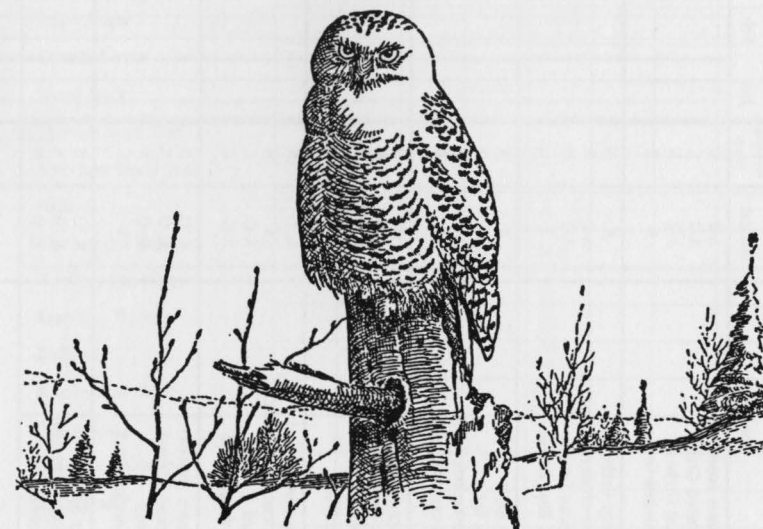
The illustrations in this checklist originally appeared in the **Logbook of Minnesota Birdlife** and the Department of Conservation's (DNR) publication, **The Conservation Volunteer**. They were prepared by Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, primarily to illustrate the many articles he wrote for **The Conservation Volunteer** between 1940 (Vol. 1, No. 1) and the late 1960's. As to why the early volumes of the **Conservation Volunteer** contained so many of his articles, Dr. Breckenridge recalled that "They needed articles and illustrations for their publication and it was something that I could do for them as a contribution of the Bell Museum." The early issues of **The Conservation Volunteer** had only black and white illustrations, due to available printing methods of that time, and the Breckenridge illustrations were a significant contribution to the early growth of the '**Volunteer**' (today **The Minnesota Volunteer**.) Fortunately many of the drawings have been preserved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Information and Education.

How To Use This Bird List

On the left-hand pages in this booklet, is the list of birds that includes information about when each species is present, how common it is, the habitat(s) in which it usually can be found, and its breeding abundance. Explanations of the symbols used are printed inside the front cover. As an example of how to use the chart, refer to the Common Loon on page 8. The solid line from early April until late November indicates that individuals of this species can be found in the Itasca State Park during that entire period. The "C" under breeding status means that Common Loons are a common nesting species in Itasca State Park. "A-1" in the habitat column shows that loons are most often found in open lakes and streams.

On the right hand pages, there are eight vertical columns in which the observer can record birds sighted on eight different field trips. In addition, there is space on page 25 for recording information about location, weather conditions, observers, etc., for each day in the field.

The sequence of species and their common names are those used in the American ornithologists' Union '*Checklist of North American Birds*, 6th Edition (1983).



Species	Habitat	Breeding Status	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Common Loon	A-1	C												
Pied-billed Grebe	A-2	C												
Horned Grebe	A-2	N												
Red-necked Grebe	A	R												
Western Grebe	A	N												
Double-crested Cormorant	A-1	N												
American Bittern	A-2	U												
Great Blue Heron	A, F-2	C												
Great Egret	A	N												
Cattle Egret	A	N												
Green-backed Heron	A-3	U												
Black-crowned Night Heron	A	R												
Tundra Swan	O	N												
Snow Goose	A-O	N												
Canada Goose	A-O	N												
Wood Duck	A, F	C												
Green-winged Teal	A, O	N												
American Black Duck	A	R												
Mallard	A-G	C												
Blue-winged Teal	A-G	U												
Northern Shoveler	A, O	N												
American Wigeon	A, O	N												
Redhead	A, O	N												
Ring-necked Duck	A	C												
Lesser Scaup	A, O	N												
Common Goldeneye	A, O	N												
Bufflehead	A, O	N												

Species	Field Trips											
Common Loon												
Pied-billed Grebe												
Horned Grebe												
Red-necked Grebe												
Western Grebe												
Double-crested Cormorant												
American Bittern												
Great Blue Heron												
Great Egret												
Cattle Egret												
Green-backed Heron												
Black-crowned Night-Heron												
Tundra Swan												
Snow Goose												
Canada Goose												
Wood Duck												
Green-winged Teal												
American Black Duck												
Mallard												
Blue-winged Teal												
Northern Shoveler												
American Wigeon												
Redhead												
Ring-necked Duck												
Lesser Scaup												
Common Goldeneye												
Bufflehead												

Species	Habitat	Breeding Status	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Hooded Merganser	A	U												
Common Merganser	A	N												
Red-breasted Merganser	A	N												
Ruddy Duck	A	N												
Turkey Vulture	F, O	R												
Osprey	A, F, O	C												
Bald Eagle	A, F, O	U												
Northern Harrier	G	U												
Sharp-shinned Hawk	F	C												
Cooper's Hawk	F	U												
Northern Goshawk	F	U												
Red-shouldered Hawk	F, O	R												
Broad-winged Hawk	F	C												
Red-tailed Hawk	F, G, O	C												
Rough-legged Hawk	G, O	N												
American Kestrel	G	C												
Merlin	F, G, O	N												
Ruffed Grouse	F, S	C												
Yellow Rail	G-1	N												
Virginia Rail	A-2	U												
Sora	A-2	C												
American Coot	A	N												
Sandhill Crane	O	N												
Killdeer	B	R												
Greater Yellowlegs	B, M	N												
Lesser Yellowlegs	B, M	N												
Solitary Sandpiper	A, B	N												
Spotted Sandpiper	B	U												

Species	Field Trips
Hooded Merganser	
Common Merganser	
Red-breasted Merganser	
Ruddy Duck	
Turkey Vulture	
Osprey	
Bald Eagle	
Northern Harrier	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	
Cooper's Hawk	
Northern Goshawk	
Red-shouldered Hawk	
Broad-winged Hawk	
Red-tailed Hawk	
Rough-legged Hawk	
American Kestrel	
Merlin	
Ruffed Grouse	
Yellow Rail	
Virginia Rail	
Sora	
American Coot	
Sandhill Crane	
Killdeer	
Greater Yellowlegs	
Lesser Yellowlegs	
Solitary Sandpiper	
Spotted Sandpiper	

Species	Habitat	Breeding Status	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Gray Jay	F	U												
Blue Jay	F	C												
American Crow	F, G, S	C												
Black-billed Magpie	F, G	N												
Common Raven	F, G	N												
Black-capped Chickadee	F	C												
Boreal Chickadee	F	R												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	F	C												
White-breasted Nuthatch	F	C												
Brown Creeper	F	C												
House Wren	F	C												
Winter Wren	F	C												
Sedge Wren	G-1	U												
Marsh Wren	A-2	U												
Golden-crowned Kinglet	F-2	C												
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	F	N												
Eastern Bluebird	G, X	C												
Veery	F	C												
Gray-checked Thrush	F	N												
Swainson's Thrush	F	U												
Hermit Thrush	F-2	C												
Wood Thrush	F-1	R												
American Robin	F, X	C												
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F-1	R												
Gray Catbird	S	C												
Brown Thrasher	S	U												
Bohemian Waxwing	F	N												
Cedar Waxwing	F, S	C												

Species	Field Trips
Gray Jay	
Blue Jay	
American Crow	
Black-billed Magpie	
Common Raven	
Black-capped Chickadee	
Boreal Chickadee	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	
White-breasted Nuthatch	
Brown Creeper	
House Wren	
Winter Wren	
Sedge Wren	
Marsh Wren	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Eastern Bluebird	
Veery	
Gray-checked Thrush	
Swainson's Thrush	
Hermit Thrush	
Wood Thrush	
American Robin	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
Gray Catbird	
Brown Thrasher	
Bohemian Waxwing	
Cedar Waxwing	

Species	Habitat	Breeding Status	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Northern Shrike	F-3, S	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	X	U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solitary Vireo	F	U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-throated Vireo	F	U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warbling Vireo	F-3	U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philadelphia Vireo	F	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	F	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-winged Warbler	S	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee Warbler	F, S	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	S	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nashville Warbler	F-2 & 4	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Parula	F-2 & 4	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Warbler	S	U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler	F-3, S	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Magnolia Warbler	F-2 & 3	U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cape May Warbler	F-2	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler	F-2	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	F-2	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Green Warbler	F-2	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackburnian Warbler	F-2	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	F-2	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	F-2	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bay-breasted Warbler	F	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackpoll Warbler	F	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black and White Warbler	F-1	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Redstart	F-1	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	F	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	F-4	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Species	Field Trips
Northern Shrike	
European Starling	
Solitary Vireo	
Yellow-throated Vireo	
Warbling Vireo	
Philadelphia Vireo	
Red-eyed Vireo	
Golden-winged Warbler	
Tennessee Warbler	
Orange-crowned Warbler	
Nashville Warbler	
Northern Parula	
Yellow Warbler	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Magnolia Warbler	
Cape May Warbler	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Black-throated Green Warbler	
Blackburnian Warbler	
Pine Warbler	
Palm Warbler	
Bay-breasted Warbler	
Blackpoll Warbler	
Black & White Warbler	
American Redstart	
Ovenbird	
Northern Waterthrush	

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Species	Habitat	Breeding Status	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Connecticut Warbler	F-4	R												
Mourning Warbler	F, S-4	C												
Common Yellowthroat	S	C												
Hooded Warbler	F	N												
Wilson's Warbler	S	N												
Canada Warbler	F-4	U												
Scarlet Tanager	F	C												
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	F	C												
Indigo Bunting	S	C												
Rufous-sided Towhee	S	U												
American Tree Sparrow	F	N												
Chipping Sparrow	F	C												
Clay-colored Sparrow	S	U												
Vesper Sparrow	G-2	U												
Savannah Sparrow	G	U												
LeConte's Sparrow	G-1	R												
Fox Sparrow	S	N												
Song Sparrow	F-3, S	C												
Lincoln's Sparrow	F-3, S	N												
Swamp Sparrow	G-1, S	C												
White-throated Sparrow	F, S-4	C												
White-crowned Sparrow	S	N												
Harris' Sparrow	S	N												
Dark-eyed Junco	F-3, S	R												
Snow Bunting	G	N												

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Species	Field Trips
Connecticut Warbler	
Mourning Warbler	
Common Yellowthroat	
Hooded Warbler	
Wilson's Warbler	
Canada Warbler	
Scarlet Tanager	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
Indigo Bunting	
Rufous-sided Towhee	
American Tree Sparrow	
Chipping Sparrow	
Clay-colored Sparrow	
Vesper Sparrow	
Savannah Sparrow	
LeConte's Sparrow	
Fox Sparrow	
Song Sparrow	
Lincoln's Sparrow	
Swamp Sparrow	
White-throated Sparrow	
White-crowned Sparrow	
Harris' Sparrow	
Dark-eyed Junco	
Snow Bunting	

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Species	Habitat	Breeding Status	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Bobolink	G	U												
Red-winged Blackbird	A-2, G-2	C												
Eastern Meadowlark	G-2	R												
Western Meadowlark	G-2	U												
Yellow-headed Blackbird	A-2	N												
Rusty Blackbird	F-3	N												
Brewer's Blackbird	G-2	U												
Common Grackle	F, G, S	U												
Brown-headed Cowbird	F, G, S	C												
Northern Oriole	F-3	U												
Pine Grosbeak	F	N												
Purple Finch	F	C												
Red Crossbill	F-2	R												
White-winged Crossbill	F-2	N												
Common Redpoll	F	N												
Pine Siskin	F	C												
American Goldfinch	S	C												
Evening Grosbeak	F-5	C												
House Sparrow	X	C												

Species	Field Trips
Bobolink	
Red-winged Blackbird	
Eastern Meadowlark	
Western Meadowlark	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	
Rusty Blackbird	
Brewer's Blackbird	
Common Grackle	
Brown-headed Cowbird	
Northern Oriole	
Pine Grosbeak	
Purple Finch	
Red Crossbill	
White-winged Crossbill	
Common Redpoll	
Pine Siskin	
American Goldfinch	
Evening Grosbeak	
House Sparrow	

Casual, Accidental and Introduced Species

Species	Year of Observation
American Swallow-tailed Kite	1976
Trumpeter Swan (introduction)	1989
Parasitic Jaeger	1983
Williamson's Sapsucker	1988
Blue-throated Hummingbird	1987
Lark Bunting	1977

Itasca State Park Bird Records

We would like to encourage all birders to help in the recording of the bird life of Itasca State Park. We encourage you to record occurrences and nesting observations, or additional species, and share your observations with us.

If you would like to donate your completed Itasca State Park checklist (8 field trips) for our permanent records, you will be given a new checklist along with the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped in the documentation of the birdlife of Itasca State Park.

Park Manager
Itasca State Park Headquarters
Lake Itasca, Minnesota 56460

Field Data

DATE

	Location:	Sky:
	Temperature:	Time Afield: Wind:
	Observer(s):	
	Location:	Sky:
	Temperature:	Time Afield: Wind:
	Observer(s):	
	Location:	Sky:
	Temperature:	Time Afield: Wind:
	Observer(s):	
	Location:	Sky:
	Temperature:	Time Afield: Wind:
	Observer(s):	
	Location:	Sky:
	Temperature:	Time Afield: Wind:
	Observer(s):	
	Location:	Sky:
	Temperature:	Time Afield: Wind:
	Observer(s):	
	Location:	Sky:
	Temperature:	Time Afield: Wind:
	Observer(s):	

Field Notes and Sketches

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Field Notes and Sketches

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Previously Published Bird Lists for Itasca State Park

1. Summer Birds of Itasca Park, Gustav Swanson, *The Flicker*, Vol. 15, pages 25-28, 1943.
2. Checklist - Birds of Itasca State Park, Donald K. Lewis, University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History and the Minnesota Department of Conservation, Division of State Parks, 1955.
3. Early-Summer Birdlife of Itasca State Park, Joseph J. Hickey, John T. Emlen, Jr., and S. Charles Kendeigh, *The Loon*, Vol. 37, No. 1, March 1965.
4. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Itasca State Park and Surrounding Areas, David F. Parmelee, *The Loon*, Vol. 49, No. 2, pages 81-95, 1977. (available at the Itasca Nature Store).



89009373

\$ 1.00



Itasca State Park
Lake Itasca, Minnesota 56460
IM-5/89

Birdlife of Itasca State Park

This list of birds is from the Birdlife of Itasca State Park prepared by Ben Thoma, Park Naturalist; Dwain Warner, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota; Lewis W. Oring, Professor, University of North Dakota; and Bryce Anderson, Regional Park Naturalist. Published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, 1989. The Birdlife of Itasca State Park is available at the Itasca Gift Shops or Park Headquarters and includes notes on habitat preferences, breeding status, abundance and seasonal occurrence. We would like to encourage all birders to help in the recording of the bird life of Itasca State Park. We encourage you to record occurrences and nesting observations, or additional species, and share your observations with us.



LOONS

Common Loon

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Western Grebe

CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant

HERONS

American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Cattle Egret
Green-backed Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS

Tundra Swan
Snow Goose
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Green-winged Teal
American Black Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
American Wigeon
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Common Goldeneye
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck

VULTURES, HAWKS, FALCONS

Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin

GROUSE

Ruffed Grouse

RAILS, COOTS

Yellow Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
American Coot

CRANES

Sandhill Crane

SHOREBIRDS

Killdeer
Great Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Common Snipe
American Woodcock

GULLS, TERNS

Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Caspian Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern

Black Tern

DOVES

Mourning Dove

CUCKOOS

Black-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

OWLS

Great Horned Owl
Snowy Owl
Barred Owl
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS

Common Nighthawk
Whip-poor-will
Chimney Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Three-toed Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird

LARKS, SWALLOWS

Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
No. Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow

JAYS, CROWS

Gray Jay
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-billed Magpie
Common Raven

CHICKADEES

Black-capped Chickadee
Boreal Chickadee

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper

WRENS

House Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES

Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-checked Thrush
Sawin's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin

GNATCATCHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

THRASHERS

Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher

WAXWINGS

Bohemian Waxwing
Cedar Waxwing

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike

STARLINGS

European Starling

VIREOS

Solitary Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler
Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black & White Warbler
American Redstart
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler

TANAGERS

Scarlet Tanager

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS, BUNTINGS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Rufous-sided Towhee

American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
LeConte's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Snow Bunting
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Oriole
Pine Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Red Crossbill
White-winged Crossbill
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
WEAVER FINCHES
House Sparrow

Casual, Accidental and Introduced Species

Species	Year of Observation
American Swallow-tailed Kite	1976
Trumpeter Swan (introduction)	1989
Parasitic Jaeger	1983
Williamson's Sapsucker	1988
Blue-throated Hummingbird	1987
Lark Bunting	1977
Prothonotary Warbler	1989



The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU) is a statewide bird club of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. For membership information, please write to: Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, J.F. Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0104